Merger of International Airports Authority and National Airports Authority

*338. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to merge the International Airports Authority and the National Airports Authority; and

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

C. B. I. Probe against the officials of Air India

*339. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have instituted a CBI probe against the Air India officials responsible for allowing two private operators to run away with over Rs. 5 crore by providing traffic rights on a platter in the early eighties; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DGCA's relaxation of norms and regulations to suit Vayudoot Operations

*340. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General, Civil Aviation (DGCA), has shown preferential treatment to Vayudoot at the cost of passenger's safety by relaxing their own norms and regulations to suit its operations;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that DGCA has given permission to Vayudoot to operate on routes on Hubli, Guna, Tanjore and Neyveli in spite of the fact that airports at these places do not provide basic facilities; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to conduct a high level enquiry into the affairs of Vayudoot, and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Basic facilities are provided by State Governments.

(d) No, Sir. The need for such an inquiry is not felt.

U.S. reaction to 'Agni' launch

@2673. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the criticism voiced by the US authorities against the launching of "Agni" and their efforts to

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@Previously Unstarred Question 1702, transferred from 1st August, 1989.

scuttle the same threaten India's technological progress; and

(b) whether Government have adopted suitable policy measures to meet such high-handed attitude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India is of the view that US criticism of the Agni launch will not affect India's technological progress adversely. India's Agni programme is indigenous and not dependent on foreign technology.

Effects of Atmospheric pollution on Taj

@2674. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 10th July, 1989 to the effect that one Italian firm and several scientific organisations have been playing a hoax on the nation for the last 17 years by first claiming that the Taj is threatened by atmospheric pollution and then by asserting that pollution is non-existent according to the environment specialist; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is baseless. The ambient air in respect of Sulphur dioxide and other pollutants, as well as the metereological data around the Taj Mahal are continuously being monitored and remedial measures are undertaken as required.

Expenditure incurred by ITDC on the running of its Hotel Sales/Marketing Division

2675. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a Hotel Sales Department/Marketing Division in the ITDC;

(b) if so, what are the aims, objectives and main highlights of this Division with the list of executives and non-executives on its strength as on date and future requirements; and

(c) what is the total expenditure incurred by ITDC on the running and maintenance of this Department for the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) A Hotel Sales Wing under Hotels Division exists in ITDC at the Corporate level.

(b) The requisite information is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 159].

(c) The total direct identifiable expenditure incurred by the ITDC on the running and maintenance of Hotel Sales Wing was approximately as under, during last 3 years:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Expenditure
1986-87	32.41
1987-88	41.07
1988-89	45.08

@Previously Unstarred Question 1980, transferred from the 27th July, 1989.